

## Abstract

### **A call to biobased economy actors: have you ever think to the biomass valorization generated in marginal lands?**

ValBiom is a 12 people association in Wallonia (Belgium) which aims to promote non food biomass valorization in Wallonia by informing and advising, by sharing our knowledge in legislation (European, regional, national) and that, with the help of our important Members network and the support of the Walloon administrations ([www.valbiom.be](http://www.valbiom.be)). The team works on the different biobased themes: anaerobic digestion, liquid biofuels, sustainability & life cycle analyses, wood-energy, biobased molecules and materials, energy management at farm level and dedicated crops.

My work purpose at ValBiom: initiate actively concrete plantation projects on marginal lands in Wallonia, Belgium for a valorization of the biomass generated in the biobased economy.

Since 2015, we work actively on the promotion of concrete plantation on marginal lands also called PHYTOMANAGEMENT. Some biomass projects know difficulties because of the lack of available sites to produce their plant material (conflict between food-feed production vs non food production for example). Marginal lands are those sites which are abandoned because it cannot welcome projects as real estate or the food production are not allowed, etc. This for several reasons (surface, alteration/degradation of soils (pollution f.ex)). Marginal lands represent then an opportunity for biomass production project for biobased economy. Since ValBiom initiates this mission, marginal land owners contact the association to find alternatives like plantation which could be valorized in the biobased economy. So, very fast come the questions like which plant material is needed? which plants species should we plant ? Which plants species do our biobased industries need (material, molecules, products, bioenergy)? Would they be interested by local biomass generated in marginal lands and in which conditions?

This presentation aims to

- Inform end users of plant materials that this raw material can be produced on marginal lands.
- Make a call to them to make a bridge between local supply and our local biobased industries needs (which plant species do they need to produce adequate plant material?).
- Have a feedback of the biobased industries of their point of view (biomass quality requirement).

Innovation is welcomed. ValBiom doesn't work alone: we work beyond the geographic borders of Wallonia with partners in Flanders, France, Germany and UK with whom we share the same objectives.

Dr Aricia Evlard, Plant biologist, PhD Sciences & Environment Management (University of Liege, Gembloux Agro Bio Tech) with a specialization in the thematic of phytomanagement and phytoremediation since 10 years and playing an important federating role in ValBiom since 2015 for marginal lands valorization in Wallonia.

## Topic

SESSION 1 - THE FOREST RESOURCE (following the advice of Prof. P. Gérardin) for oral presentation (first choice). Poster also as second choice.